

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/626,965

Examiner

Giovanna Colan

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/28/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-11 and 14-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. Per the instant office action, claims 1 – 2, 4 – 11, and 14 – 16 are considered as allowable subject matter.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claim 1, the limitation of "a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database ..., wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component, wherein said storage unit stores meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic Information components and wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level", taken with the other limitations of the claim, were not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor otherwise fairly disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to independent claim 9, the prior art of record does not anticipate nor suggest the limitation of "a management unit managing the component development knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data from said storage unit via a network, and conducting communications for getting a permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting said product based upon the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the Inspection data, with an author side client placed in the author side issuing the catalog and registering the catalog as a database in said storage unit when the management unit gets the permission", taken with the other limitations of the claim, were not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor otherwise fairly disclosed by the prior art of record.

Independent claims 2, 10 and 11 contain the same allowable subject matter as identified in claim 1 above and therefore are allowed based on the same reasons stated above for claim 1.

Dependent claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, and 16 are allowable at least for the reasons recited above as including all of the limitations of the allowable independent base claims upon which they depend.

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3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issues fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Points Of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan
Examiner
Art Unit 2162
September 15, 2007


JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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